

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /087 W

----- 099525

R 020846Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2655

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, ML, KS, KN, DR

SUBJ: MULTINATIONAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 181500 (B) STATE 186305

1. FOREIGN MINISTER IS ON VACATION AND UNAVAILABLE, ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL LEO KEITA. CHARGE'S REQUEST FOR CALL ON MINISTER THEREFORE REFERRED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL HALIDOU TOURE WHO HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT. SECRETARY GENERAL SEYDOU TRAORE IS OUT OF COUNTRY.

2. IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL, CHARGE HOSTED LUNCH JULY 30 FOR MOUSTAPHA DEME, DIRGEN FOR COOPERATION, ALIOU KEITA, ACTING CHIEF, POLITICAL DIVISION (BOTH WILL ATTEND COLOMBO SUMMIT); AND MAKAN DEMBELE, COUNSELOR FOR US AFFAIRS. CHARGE PRESENTED TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO, WIRELESS FILE ARTICLE ON KOREA PORTION OF SECRETARY'S
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SEATTLE SPEECH, AND EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF OTHER WIRE-

LESS FILE ARTICLES ON KOREA.

3. AFTER READING PAPERS, ALL CONCERNED TOOK OBVIOUS PLEASURE IN RECITING AMERICAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO BACK TO CHARGE. DEMBELE, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM IV TRIP TO US, HAD HAD FOUR DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS IN PUERTO RICO AND WAS PROUD THAT EVEN HIS BOSS, KEITA, WAS WELL BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL SITUATION. THEIR INTERPRETATION OF SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. KEITA SAID PUERTO RICO WAS NO LONGER A PROBLEM BETWEEN US.

4. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR KANTE (REF B) AT UN HAD TOLD US MISOFF THAT BECAUSE OF US POSITION IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON ENTEBEE AFFAIR, MALI WOULD REVERSE ITS POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND AGAIN LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST US. THIS PRODUCED EMBARRASSED SILENCE. KEITA ASKED DEMBELE IF KANTE MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. DEMBELE SAID NO. BOTH ASSURED CHARGE THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE MFA HAD NOT YET SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DEL. THEY NODDED IN SILENT AGREEMENT WHEN CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT KANTE HAD GONE OFF ON HIS OWN. CHARGE WILL TRY TO CONFIRM THIS POINT WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL ALTHOUGH HIS RESPONSE WILL PROBABLY BE IN UNHELPFUL, THEORETICAL TERMS ADMITTING NOTHING.

5. CHARGE SAID THAT BOTH PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WERE ISSUES OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE US. BOTH WERE OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE THAT THEY COULD AFFECT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

6. THE TALK TURNED TO KOREA. DEME SAID THAT SINCE MALI WAS FAR FROM KOREA, THE MALIAN POSITION WAS BASED ON PRINCIPLE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WERE TWO KOREAN STATES: THE NORTH CLAIMED TO SPEAK FOR ALL OF KOREA AND THEREFORE SEEMED MORE COMMITTED TO REUNIFICATION; THE SOUTH AS A SOVEREIGN STATE, HOWEVER, HAD THE RIGHT TO HAVE AMERICAN TROOPS WITHIN ITS BORDERS. THE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESENCE

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OF FOREIGN TROOPS HINDERED REUNIFICATION AND A LESSENING OF TENSIONS. CHARGE SAID THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS QUESTION OF STATED POLICIES AND TRUE INTENTIONS. US HAD WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS FROM KOREA IN 1949 AND THE RESULT HAD BEEN WAR. THE US WANTED TO BE SURE THAT SOMETHING PERMANENT REPLACED THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. BOTH KOREAS HAD SECURITY AND DEFENSE TREATIES WITH THIRD POWERS, EVEN THOUGH THE

NORTH KOREANS AT TIMES DENIED THIS. CHARGE PROMISED TO PROVIDE TEXTS OF ALL TREATIES SHOULD THERE BE ANY CONFUSION ON THIS POINT. MALIANS KNEW OF NORTH KOREAN DEFENSE TREATIES BUT ACCEPTED CHARGE'S OFFER.

7. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MALIANS WAS THEORETICAL DISCUSSION OF WHETHER PRESENCE OF MILITARY CAPABILITY CREATED TENSION. CHARGE SAID THAT LACK OF MILITARY POWER INVITED AGGRESSION, THAT ADEQUATE LEVEL WAS DETERRENCE, BUT THAT TOO MUCH COULD LEAD TO PROVOCATION. THIS, OF COURSE, IS SITUATION FACING MALI AND GUESTS UNDERSTOOD.

8. DISCUSSION ON KOREA WAS USEFUL. DEME AND DEMBELE WERE GENUINELY INTERESTED AND SHOWED ABILITY TO FOCUS ON FACTS AND GOOD ARGUMENTATION. DEME DID NOT RULE OUT EVENTUAL CHANGE IN MALI POSITION SINCE "ELEMENTS OF APPRECIATION" COULD INFLUENCE MALIAN ATTITUDES.

9. CHARGE HOLDS NO HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT GOM POSITION AT COLOMBO WILL BE ANYTHING BUT TOTAL SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA. IN THE LONG RUN, AS YOUNGER MALIANS LIKE DEMBELE AND DEME ARE EXPOSED TO NON-COMMUNIST VIEWS, THEY SHOULD PROVE MORE INDEPENDENT AND MORE WILLING TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN POLICY. IN ANY EVENT, ALL UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE US PUTS ON KOREAN ISSUE; BUT NONE BELIEVE THAT US WOULD CUT BACK ECONOMIC OR HUMANITARIAN AID SHOULD MALI SUPPORT NORTH KOREA.

10. DIRGEN DEME IS CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CISO SOKHO AND THIRD RANKING AFTER MINISTER. HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BRIGHT, CAPABLE AND CHARMING. HE IS ALSO KEY MAN TO CONTACT ON MALIAN DELEGATION. A COURTEOUS LOW-KEY PRESENTATION HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. HE SPEAKS ONLY FRENCH, AND DRINKS SCOTCH AND COKE.

10. KEITA IS MUCH LESS ABLE. HE EXCELS IN HIS ROLE AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES AT THE ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC BALL, BUT AT LITTLE ELSE. HIS FRENCH IS HEAVILY ACCENTED. HE MIGHT PROVE TO BE A SOURCE OF INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY AFTER A FEW DRINKS. HIS DRINK IS SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS.

10. FOREIGN MINISTER CISO SOKHO WILL HEAD MALIAN DELEGATION COMPOSED OF DEME AND KEITA, AND POSSIBLY ONE OTHER. CHIEF OF STATE MOUSSA TRAORE WILL

NOT ATTEND, ACCORDING TO DEME.

11. WILL REPORT FORMAL CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL
WHEN COMPLETED.
DAWKINS

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